

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 OTTAWA 01262 302137 Z

71

ACTION SS-25

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O R 302112 Z MAY 73
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 1262

EXDIS

STADIS

E. O. 11652: XGDS1
TAGS: PFOR, ZA, CA
SUBJECT: MAY 15 SHOOTING INCIDENT

1. PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING ASAP TO CANHICOM BROADBRIDGE
FORM EXTAF: QUOTE: DEATH OF CDN TOURISTS IN RHODESIA.
FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO
PRESIDENT KAUNDA WHICH WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO DELIVER
IMMEDIATELY. TEXT BEGINS. DEAR MR. PRESIDENT I AM
VERY UNHAPPY INDEED TO BE WRITING TO YOU ON THE SAD
SUBJECT OF THE RECENT DEATH OF TWO YOUNG CDN TOURISTS
IN THE ZAMBEZI GORGE. WHILE OUR CORRESPONDENCE IN THE
PAST HAS OFTEN BEEN CONCERNED WITH GRAVE MATTERS
AFFECTING LARGE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE, I CANNOT RECALL
ANYTHING AS POIGNANT AS THIS TRAGIC INCIDENT.

2. I KNOW THAT YOU PERSONALLY HAVE BEEN GRAVELY DIS-
TURBED BY THIS EVENT AND I DEEPLY APPRECIATE THE SINCERE
MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCES SENT BY YOUR FOREIGN MINISTER
TO MY SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ON BEHALF
OF THE PARTY, GOVT AND PEOPLE OF ZAMBIA. YOUR FOREIGN
MINISTER TOOK THE OCCASION TO MENTION THE WARM AND
CORDIAL RELATIONS EXISTING BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES AND
TO EXPRESS THE HOPE, WHICH WE EARNESTLY SHARE, THAT THIS
UNFORTUANTE INCIDENT SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO MAR THOSE
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PAGE 02 OTTAWA 01262 302137 Z

RELATIONS. IT IS BECAUSE I VALUE VERY HIGHLY THE UNDER-
STANDING AND FRIENDSHIP THAT HAVE DEVELOPED BETWEEN US
AND BECAUSE I AM DETERMINED TO PRESERVE THEM THAT I NOW
VENTURE TO SEND YOU SOME FURTHER THOUGHTS ON THIS MATTER.

3. WE ARE VERY CONSCIOUS HERE OF THE STATE OF TENSION
ON THE RHODESIA- ZAMBIAN BORDER AND THE PREVIOUS INCIDENTS
THAT HAVE OCCURRED THERE, INCLUDING THE SAD LOSS OF SO
MANY ZAMBIAN LIVES FROM LAND MINES. WE FULLY RECOGNIZE
THAT YOU ARE IN THE FRONT LINE OF CONFRONTATION WITH THE
ILLEGAL REGIME OF RHODESIA. IT IS EVIDENT, HOWEVER, THAT
THOSE YOUNG CDNS WHO INNOCENTLY VENTURED INTO THE ZAMBEZI
GORGE HAD NOT FULLY APPRECIATED THE DANGER TO THEIR LIVES
IN THIS TENSE SITUATION.

4. IN ALL FRANKNESS, I MUST TELL YOU THAT MY GOVT IS
HAVING SOME SERIOUS DIFFICULTY IN EXPLAINING THE EVENTS
WHICH LED TO THE DEATHS OF THESE TWO CDN GIRLS. WE HAVE
BEEN FACED WITH PERSISTENT QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF
PARLIAMENT AND FROM THE PRESS WHO DO NOT ACCEPT AS FULLY
SATISFACTORY WHAT HAS BEEN SO FAR SAID ABOUT THE SHOOTING
OF THE TWO CDNS. THE FACT THAT THE SHOTS WICH KILLED
THEM CAME FROM THE ZAMBIAN SIDE IS THE UNHAPPY
STARTING POINT FOR THESE QUESTIONS.

5. I AM MOST ANXIOUS TO DISPEL AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE
THIS CLOUD WHICH HAS APPEARED ON THE HITHERTO CLEAR
HORIZON OF ZAMBIAN- CDN RELATIONS. I AM CERTAIN THAT
YOU SHARE MY ANXIETY IN THIS REGARD. I AM EQUALLY
CONFIDENT THAT NEITHER OF US WISHES TO GIVE THE REGIME
TO THE SOUTH OF YOU, WHOSE POLICIES WE FIND ABHORRENT,
THE SATISFACTION OF SEEING ANY MISUNDERSTANDING ARISE
BETWEEN CANADA AND ZAMBIA. THEREFORE, I WOULD BE GRATEFUL
IF YOU COULD CONSULT WITH MY HIGH COMMISSIONER IN LSAKA
TO DISCUSS WHAT MIGHT BE DONE IN OUR JOINT INTEREST TO
PREVENT ANY FURTHER UNFORTUNATE REPERCUSSIONS FROM
THIS TRAGIC AFFAIR.

6. MEANWHILE THIS BRINGS ALL BEST WISHES AND I AM
LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AGAIN SHORTLY AT THE
FORTHCOMING HEADS OF GOVT MTG HERE. YOURS SINCERELY,
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PAGE 03 OTTAWA 01262 302137 Z

P. E. TRUDEAU. END QUOTE.
SCHMIDT

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS, STADIS

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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